India

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*** *An Index with Title-page to Volume XV. of* India *(January—June,* 1901) *is now ready. A copy will be forwarded gratis and post free to any Subscriber on application to the Manager.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Viceroy's famine telegram of July 17 acknowledges the Secretary of State's telegram of July 15. What were the contents of the Secretary of State's telegram? One would like to know what they think in the India Office about this revival of distress. They keep up an interesting cheerfulness at Calcutta. The "monsoon is irregular and weak." "Rainfalls much below average everywhere, except West Coast districts, and in part of Deccan, Burma, and Eastern Bengal," though apparently "sufficient for sowings generally," except in Punjab and part of Gujerat. "Crops," however, "are withering in part of Central Provinces and Bombay," and the rice crops urgently need—what they cannot get—heavy rains. Gujerat, which has suffered so terribly, "has received very little rain, and usual sowings are greatly retarded." What does all this catalogue of dismal facts forecast? The Viceroy cheerfully sums up the situation in the extraordinary sentence: "Prospects generally have not yet suffered materially." Not yet? Is officialism unteachable? Or does it take the people of this country for idiots?

The London correspondent of the "Hamburgischer Correspondent," a very influential journal of North Germany, returns to the question of the Indian famine. He sets out in summary the facts of the recrudescence of distress, from Lord Curzon's telegram of June 28 announcing "rainfall light and scattered, and generally insufficient for the purpose of agriculture." He speaks again in high terms of Sir William Wedderburn's long and earnest endeavours "for the improvement of the condition of the powerful South-Asian Empire"; and he does this journal the honour of setting forth its efforts on behalf of the sufferers, specifying our recommendation of the re-opening of the Mansion House Fund and of a National Grant of at least five millions. He cites from our columns the case of the officials engaged in the famine work who "mercifully got inured to the horror!" and he points to the strange fact that the Indian authorities wrap themselves up "in silence." He quotes also the substance of recent speeches of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, which probe the causes of the terrible poverty of the country. The natural conclusion, which he implies rather than openly states, evidently is that the British Indian Empire is exposed to serious risks from these repeated and virulent attacks of famine. Not that the British power can be upset—a result that "no friend of human progress can desire." But the need of strong measures of prevention, as of stronger measures of relief, is only too obvious.

A case which throws a painful light on some of the indirect miseries which result from famine has just come before the Bombay High Court. According to a Calcutta contemporary Shamya Nath, a starving boy, met another boy carrying some bread to a man working in the fields. He demanded some, and on being refused, he began in a passion to throw stones at the other boy, with such effect that he was taken to the hospital, and there died. The Assistant-Sessions Judge of Khandesh convicted the boy of causing grievous hurt, and sentenced him to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. But the Bombay Government thought this sentence too light, and moved the High Court to enhance the punishment. This, however, Mr. Justice Candy refused to do. Though the offence was technically either murder or culpable homicide, still "having regard to the age of the prisoner and the fact that he did the act in a fit of hunger the Court holds that the sentence is sufficiently substantial."

"The news that the Indian sterling loan has been withdrawn from the London market has caused much surprise." Such is the report of the "Times" correspondent at Simla (July 17). Well, this is the first time that an Indian loan has failed to float, and the failure suggests enquiry as to the causes. Both the "Pioneer" and the "Englishman" refer to the overstrained market, and to the considerable departure of the Secretary of State from the Budget loan programme. The "Investors' Review" points out, in justice to the India Office, that the existing three per cent. stock was at 100. Naturally, then, the India Office might be hopeful enough to ask for 98. But "no one wanted" the new issue of £3,000,000 "just then at any price." So "there is no disguising the fact that the Government of India is in rather an awkward fix. It will either have to sell what of the loan it can and keep the rest at the risk of having to dispose of it at a lower figure, or withdraw the whole and resort to temporary expedients for obtaining money in the hope that better opportunities may arise later."

"That, however," Mr. Wilson goes on to say, "is a vain hope." He doubts if the public would take the lot "at 96, or even 95." Why? "Price is not the obstacle; the public does not possess the means." This seems a startling declaration, seeing that we have been accustomed to be told that John Bull's purse was inexhaustible. The explanation, however, is very simple when one calmly regards the facts of the situation. "Wealth" is one thing; "credit" is another thing. Now, "the nation lives, and has lived for generations, on credit, stimulating trade by borrowing, developing new acquisitions with the same dangerous assistance, pledging and mortgaging each new acquisition in its haste to be, or to seem, richer and richer, until we have fallen into a habit of leaning upon the usurer in every movement of business and relation of life." The loan failed for "want of available credit with which to take it up." The frightful war expenditure has drained the country of its free resources, and has "led to over-pledging of the credit of individuals and institutions in order to subscribe for new issues of Government stock to an extent that for the time being almost paralyses the community in relation to fresh commitments in other directions." Moreover, the feeding of the Government expenditure "has powerfully aided other influences to produce a general and disastrous depression in the prices of all kinds of public securities." The market, therefore, "begins to look with dread upon any fresh call upon it for assistance." "That," says Mr. Wilson, "is the true lesson of the failure of the loan, and much might be gained if the Government would only wake up to its significance." A mighty "if," surely! The British public will have to wake up first, and certainly it does not seem as yet to betray much uneasiness.

The Viceroy in Council—at any rate, "the Viceroy with the unanimous support of the Council," according to the phrasing of the "Times" correspondent at Simla—

submitted to the King-Emperor a scheme "for the provision of military employment and rank for a limited number of cadets of the princely or aristocratic families of India." Now the King-Emperor, we are told, has cordially approved the scheme, and "welcomed this opportunity of testifying his confidence in the loyalty of his Indian feudatories and subjects in the opening year of his reign." The idea is to select "periodically" a small number—"probably some 20 to start with"—of scions of princely or aristocratic families, chiefly "from the four Chiefs' colleges at Ajmere, Lahore, Rajkot, and Indore," dub them "the Imperial Cadet Corps," and put them under the command of "a specially selected commandant and adjutant." When they "satisfy the requisite standard of efficiency," they will obtain "the rank, position, and duty of a British officer." Very well. But why should the princely scions be specially selected and specially trained? Why not put them through the common mill? Besides, why should they alone have such prospects opened up to them? And, after all, what are these prospects? Are they to be allowed to rise in the service to such rank as their abilities may entitle them to? Are we to look forward to the possibility of a Native Indian Commander-in-Chief? Or is their promotion to be limited, as in the case of those 3,000 "Native officers of good birth and position" who are already in military employment in India? The Simla correspondent of the "Times," who reports all this, does not speak with confidence of the future of the project. We are not surprised.

The lessons of the South African war are beginning to tell upon the finances of India. The scheme of training mounted infantry has been sanctioned, and five fully equipped schools are to be formed. "The buildings," says the "Times" Simla correspondent (July 17) are to cost 11¾ lakhs, the initial expenditure will be Rs. 4,28,000, and the annual recurring charge Rs. 4,91,000. Of course, "the necessity for mounted infantry justifies the outlay." For our own part, as things stand, we can only regard this project as an unfortunate draft on an overburdened exchequer. So far as one can see, the army is more than equal to any rational forecast of its duties. If there were a full treasury and a really prosperous country, it would be scarcely worth while to make any objection to the expenditure of a few lakhs in a manner that would certainly strengthen the effective power of the army. But when we can spare contingents to South Africa and to China, and fail to discern the remotest probability of the necessity of any military operations on the Frontier, it does seem hard that any expenditure not absolutely necessary should be laid upon a country desolated with prolonged famine and pestilence.

There appears to be some hope, after all, that before long there will be a mitigation in the telegraphic tariff between England and India. The report of the directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company to the recent half-yearly meeting states that "they had every reason to hope that the difficulties would shortly be brought to a settlement, and that a substantial reduction would be made in the tariff to India." The difficulties lie in the complication of interests. Another advantage is also in prospect. "For a long time the directors had felt that it was a hardship that private persons were not able to telegraph under similarly favourable conditions" to those of the big merchants that could employ a code, and so telegraph at the rate of about a penny per word transcribed. "They had submitted a proposal to the Post Office in England and the Post Office in India, by which private persons might go to the various post offices and employ a code kept there, and probably also the assistance of a clerk, so that they might be able to telegraph on something like the same terms as merchants." The idea is extremely sensible, and probably there is money in it as well. We trust the negotiations will go rapidly forward to a favourable conclusion.

The trial of Eugene Hoff, a European Emigration Agent at Cawnpore and his assistants, Ali Raza and Kasim Ali, on the charge of robbing and illegally imprisoning in an emigration depot a Marwari woman, has had a most unsatisfactory termination. The case, which was tried before Mr. Justice Aikman and a jury in the Allahabad High Court, lasted for ten days. The woman alleged that she was seized at Cawnpore, taken to a Coolie depot, robbed, kept there as a prisoner for several days, and then turned adrift penniless in Oude. The defence was that the whole case was a "diabolical conspiracy," in which the police had a share, though as a matter of fact although the police had evidence against Hoff such as would have justified his arrest they did not arrest him This was only done by the order of the District Magistrate. On the evidence the Judge considered there was no reason to think the case was made up by the police.

The jury were absent for two hours and ten minutes, and on their return into court the foreman announced that there was no hope of a unanimous verdict, six being for acquittal and three for conviction. Asked to find to whom the property claimed by the woman belonged, the majority found that the clothes belonged to Ali Raza, and the nose-stud and scissors to Kasim Ali. And hereupon the interest in the case underwent a new development; for the Judge declared that he disagreed with the verdict of the majority. That part of the verdict which dealt with the disposition of the property he characterised as "incomprehensible." The nose-stud was found in Kasim Ali's box. It was identified by the complainant as her property, and in this she was corroborated. Kasim Ali made no claim to it—indeed, said that he knew nothing about it. Yet the majority of the jury declared that he was the rightful owner.

In India, if the jury give a unanimous verdict, the Judge is bound to accept it. He may accept the verdict of the majority if he agrees with it. But if, as in this case, he disagrees with the verdict of the majority, two courses are open to him: he may order a new trial; or he may make an entry on the charge sheet to the effect that the accused should not be retried, which operates as an acquittal. "After long and anxious consideration," Mr. Justice Aikman decided in favour of the latter alternative. Judging from past experience a conviction in the event of a new trial was unlikely, and the witnesses would thus in all probability be put to great inconvenience for nothing. Thus the accused have been released. But in the matter of the property found in the possession of the defendants, the Judge was in no way bound by the verdict of the majority, and he was therefore able to give effect to the opinion he had formed of the case by ordering that the articles in question should be delivered to the complainant.

The case which has thus come to so lame and impotent a conclusion, is calculated to throw much light on many points of importance. The "Pioneer" uses it as the text for an attack on the system of trial by jury, and makes much of the sight of an experienced judge who has passed years in weighing evidence being rendered unable to do justice owing to the "perversity" of six men presumably unaccustomed to such work. But the "Pioneer" ignores two aspects of the case. First, trial by jury, in the form in which it now appears, is not an Indian institution. It was introduced into India as part of that system of British justice of which we are so proud. It would have been too great a farce to introduce the British methods of judicial procedure, and to leave out all those parts of our system which favour the liberty of the subject. And secondly, the trial took place, not under the usual conditions of criminal procedure, but under those special conditions which operate when Europeans are being tried, and which have always been considered unnecessary by the Indian Press, while they have been strenuously supported by the Anglo-Indians.

But leaving this question on one side, the "Pioneer is undoubtedly right in pointing out that the case leaves us on the horns of an ugly dilemma.

> If we assume the verdict of the jury to be correct, we must conclude that the Cawnpore police, with a European Inspector at their head, falsified and fabricated records and documents wholesale, and, in fact, got up a conspiracy of quite devilish purpose and ingenuity. If, on the other hand, we assumed that an erroneous verdict had been given, we should have to con-

clude that not only the Native underlings but the European head of an Emigration Depot had planned and carried out a most sordid and despicable crime. And whichever view we incline to we have the undoubted fact that a European Sergeant of Police not only signed a statement which he subsequently declared to be false, but convicted himself of knowing that wholesale bribery was attempted, without saying a word about it: that a European Inspector of Police invited a man to breakfast and dinner whom he knew to be lying under suspicion of an abominable crime, which he himself was investigating: that one Joint-Magistrate was apparently under the extraordinary delusion that the Emigration Act allowed Emigration Agents to detain people against their will: and that yet another Joint-Magistrate admitted that the inspection of the Emigration Depot, which by statute is part of his duty, was carried out in a very slipshod and perfunctory manner.

Nor is this all. As might be expected special light was thrown on the working of the emigration depots. It appeared from the Magistrate's register of inspection under date March 11 that two Coolies were detained in the depot against their will. They were released, and Mr. Hoff got off with a reprimand. There were other complaints in the register, but the monthly inspection was not always made. One of the assistants at the depot, Hussaini, admitted in the witness-box that he had twenty years before been sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment for an offence against the Emigration Act. Yet he was still a licensed recruiter. Do not these revelations justify the suspicion with which the Indian Press looks upon the Emigration Act, and those who are agents and recruiters under its authority?

Mr. Beaman, formerly District and Sessions Judge of Belgaum, and now Judge of the Sindh Sadar Court, has issued a circular to the Magistrates of Sindh on the recording of prisoners' confessions. One of the chief points is that the Magistrate should make an examination of the confessing prisoner's body to see if he has been coerced by physical violence, and this not only when he complains that he has been tortured, but even when he asserts that his confession is quite voluntary. Then the length of time during which the prisoner has been detained in custody should be enquired into, whether or no this custody consists of actual imprisonment; for as Mr. Beaman says, "the Police frequently retain a man under surveillance without showing in their diaries that he is under arrest," though he may be as completely in their power as if arrested. The "Mahratta" believes that if Magistrates would act up to the spirit of this circular "a standing scandal in the administration of criminal justice would be done away with."

We print in another column to-day two memorials addressed by the Council of the Bombay Presidency Association to the Bombay Government under date June 28. One of them complains of the utter inadequacy of the time allowed to the public for the expression of their views on the Bombay Land Revenue Bill. The Council sets out the revolutionary character of the Bill, and urges that a like measure before the Supreme Legislative Council would not be referred to a Select Committee till "ample opportunity, extending over several months, had been given, to enable official and non-official opinion and criticism to express itself," whereas the present Bill "was referred to a Select Committee on the very day of its first reading." It is also pointed out that it would be very advantageous for the public to have before them the Report of the Famine Commission, and also the Report of Mr. Maconochie's enquiry "into certain allegations." Further, the Council suggest the publication of the opinions of the legal and revenue officers referred to by the Member in charge of the Bill in his opening speech. Every one of these considerations is wholly reasonable, even if it were not the fact, as it unhappily though naturally is, that "the introduction of the Bill has caused grave alarm among the people of the Presidency."

The other memorial embodies representations regarding the numerical limit that has been imposed without precedent, upon the admissions to the Engineering Department of the Poona College of Science. A notification by the Principal, dated December 6, 1900, restricted the admissions to 40, with the inevitable result of hardship and disappointment to many intending candidates. The reason assigned in a paper laid on the Council table last February was that otherwise "accommodation could not possibly be found in the hall, the class-rooms, or the laboratories" for the junior class. The memorial points out that in 1884-85 to 1887-88, with about as large an attendance as during the last three years, and in 1886-87, with even a larger attendance than ever, the remedy of exclusion was not thought of. Why not welcome all comers and make room for them? What a mockery is this in face of the Governor's recent "hailing with peculiar pleasure every form of encouragement that is given to induce students to turn their attention to the scientific study of Agriculture and Engineering"! And the "opened door," which the Viceroy declared his belief that no Viceroy or Lieutenant-Governor would ever "desire to close by one inch," a Governor closes by an indefinite number of inches. So it was at Roorkee. So it was at Cooper's Hill.

The Vienna correspondent of the "Times" sends over the substance of "another communiqué, apparently of Russian semi-official inspiration," appearing in the "Politische Correspondenz," about the Tibetan Mission to Russia. The object of the Tibetan deputation is represented to be "exclusively the grant of certain favours to the Buddhist inhabitants of Russia." The brilliant reception of the visitors is simply "part of the Russian tradition in dealing with distinguished personages from the Far East." Only this and nothing more. We would remind our readers that we have long been keeping an eye on Tibet. So long ago as December, 1896, we asked (INDIA, vol. vii. p. 374): "Are we to infer that Tibet is to be the scene of the 'forward' frontier party's next operations?" In our issue of November 11, 1898 (INDIA, vol. x. p. 253) we quoted the preceding passage, and discussed at some length (p. 256) "The Proposed Invasion of Tibet," on the suggestion of an aggressive letter of Mr. Archibald Little's in the "Spectator." The "Englishman" of Calcutta took up the subject on November 29, 1898, with great fervour, in support of Major Waddell, who commended a movement against Tibet "to the earnest consideration of all who have at heart the welfare of the Empire!" (INDIA, vol. x. p. 325). The "Times of India," however, scouted the idea as a "fantasy," "cold-blooded buccaneering," and so forth; and the "Pioneer" called it "a wild-cat scheme of annexation" (INDIA, vol. x. p. 338). The Tibetan mission to Russia is likely enough to be utilized by our fire-brands for another impulse to their ridiculous and dangerous scheme. Those that "have at heart the welfare of the Empire" will keep a cool head.

Mr. C. W. Whish writes to us as follows (July 22):—

> In your issue of a few weeks back (I forget the exact date) you quoted from a pamphlet of mine, but the quotation is incorrect. After the words "wrong which the so-called friends of India have done the country" appear the words "(i.e., the officials)" or words to that effect. The insertion of this paragraph or parenthesis alters the sense of my sentence completely, and was not authorised by me.

We gladly insert Mr. Whish's disclaimer, but it makes it more difficult than ever to understand his meaning. We quoted (June 28) the whole passage from his pamphlet, and we now quote it again:—

> One of the most grievous wrongs that the so-called friends of India have done to their country is to brand all criticism of the administration as disloyalty. Calm temperate criticism of administrative measures, straightforward representation of the views of the masses in reference to them, and how preconceived theories actually work in practice—the very life-blood of an administration whose first object is the people's good—is, therefore, strangled and starved into non-existence.

If the "so-called friends of India" who have branded all criticism as disloyalty are not the official class, who are they?

Remittances on India for 20 lakhs were on Wednesday offered for tender by the India Council, and applications were received for Rs. 40,000 in bills at 1s. 3⅞d. No allotment was made. Last week remittances for Rs. 10,000 were sold for £663, making the total disposed of from April 1 to Tuesday night Rs. 6,70,03,556, producing £4,444,991. Next week the amount offered will be reduced to 10 lakhs.

ANCIENT INDIA.*

DR. McCRINDLE is to be congratulated on the completion of his labours of a quarter of a century—the six volumes in which he has translated and annotated all the texts in Latin and Greek literature that relate to ancient India. The sixth and last volume, now before us, is naturally a collection of "sweepings," but it is not the least interesting of the series. For students of Indian history Dr. McCrindle has performed a great service in bringing together his collection. To anyone who has the leisure to examine it, such material for history possesses a fascination that does not belong to a finished history. It gives us the delight of being our own historians. Besides that, it transports us to the ancient world in a way that no modern historian can possibly do.

Probably the strongest impression that any reader of this volume will carry away will be one of surprise at the value and accuracy of the information about India to be found in the Greek and Roman classics. Pliny's Natural History indeed contains many "tall stories," some of which Dr. McCrindle has retained, whilst he has omitted others. He has omitted, for example, the account of the one-legged race of Indians who lie on their backs in the sun and shade themselves with their solitary foot. Pliny is rich in such fables, and may be suggested as a possible mine for writers of children's stories who find their invention flagging. But it is dangerous to suspect any story that is told by an ancient writer. Have not the pigmies, after being permitted for centuries only a precarious existence in poetical similes, reappeared in modern times in the pages of sober explorers? Pliny's account of the Oriental tribes whose women have such small feet that they are called "sparrow-footed" is doubtless a reference to the practice of Chinese women. And Herodotus's fable of the gold-digging ants, as Dr. McCrindle reminds us, is a genuine Indian tradition, to be found in the Mahabharata.

Nearly half the present volume is occupied with the evidence of Strabo, the Greek geographer who lived in the reign of Augustus. It has been said that there is no author on whom we depend so much for our knowledge of the ancient world: but often as he is referred to, he is very little read at the present day. It may be safely asserted that few of those who take up Dr. McCrindle's translation—very well and idiomatically done—will have read a line of the original. But Strabo is worth reading in the Greek, for those who know that language; and all such may be recommended to try him at least in the pleasant volume of selections edited by Mr. Tozer and published at the Clarendon Press. Strabo is wonderfully severe upon his predecessors, including Megasthenes, who is now recognised to have been careful and veracious. "Generally speaking," he says, "the men who have hitherto written on the affairs of India were a set of liars." He mentions the pigmies, the gold-digging ants, the mouthless men, the noseless men, the one-eyed men, the men with ears large enough to sleep in. But he did not know that those stories, far from being inventions of the Greek writers, had been told for many centuries in India, and would continue to be told for many centuries after his death. Talboys Wheeler quotes Babu Jokari Das as saying: "An old woman once told me that her husband, a Sepoy in the British army, had seen a people who slept on one ear and covered themselves with the other." Strabo gives a pleasing account of the simplicity and frugality of Indian life, praising especially the absence of litigiousness. The chief thing that he finds to condemn is the practice of solitary meals. "They have no fixed hours when all take their meals in common, but each one eats when it pleases himself. The contrary custom would be better for the interests of social and politicial life."

Of especial interest are the notices of the Brahmans in classical literature. Strabo, following Megasthenes, has an account that is on the whole remarkably accurate. He makes one mistake, extending the name "Sarmanes," mendicants, to include the third stage, the life of the forest-dwellers or hermits, as well as the fourth stage of Brahman life. Anglo-Indians make a similar mistake at the present day when they apply the Mahometan name "fakir" to both classes of ascetics. Other accounts are given by Dr. McCrindle from writers of the early centuries of the Christian era—Bardesanes, Porphyrios, Johannes Stobaios, Dion Chrysostom (a writer whose charms have been re-discovered of late by several good critics), and the Pseudo-Kallisthenes.

There are one or two points that may be worth mentioning in case the book should reach a second edition. It would facilitate reference if the translator were more carefully consistent in his use of different types, e.g., if he would keep the large type scrupulously for what is translated verbatim. Here and there a translation needs a word or two of comment to make it clear: e.g., the extract from Propertius on p. 215. Greek compounds like Hylobioi (p. 67) should have been translated. It seems a pity to have used Cary's version of Herodotus. Probably permission could have been obtained to use Rawlinson or G. C. Macaulay; or Dr. McCrindle could have given us a better version himself. His own translations leave little to be desired, wherever we have tested them, and his notes are full of learning.

* "Ancient India as described in Classical Literature": being a collection of Greek and Latin texts translated and annotated by J. W. McCrindle, M.A., LL.D. (Westminster: A. Constable and Co.)

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

Liberals who despair of the unity of their party might do worse than reflect on the passage of arms that took place the other night between Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Balfour. Nobody says that the Tory party is in a state of hopeless dissension, yet on this occasion we had an influential Conservative charging his leaders with incapacity, with double-dealing, with the grossest kind of nepotism, and with wholesale bribery. "Sometimes my hon. friend throws stones, and sometimes he throws mud," was Mr. Balfour's retort. "To-night he has preferred mud to stones, and as I cannot reply to either of those forms of attack, I must leave my hon. friend alone." Imagine Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman using language of this character towards a too outspoken Liberal! Such a tirade in the Liberal leader's mouth would have been universally greeted as a sign of red ruin, and the breaking up of laws. Yet the Ministerialists jog along, and nobody imagines that either Mr. Balfour or Mr. Bowles will be a penny the worse for their little difference. Indeed, if precedent is followed, Mr. Bowles may look forward in the near future to an invitation to join the Government, in which case he will be a good many pennies the better.

Mr. Balfour seems to be as inveterate in his optimism as Mr. Chamberlain. He has given Parliament twenty more days to get through a programme of business which comprises precisely the same number of Bills, and nearly a hundred votes in supply. One of the new proposals to be laid before the House of Commons involves no less controversial a matter than the conduct of the military campaign in South Africa. Lord Roberts is to receive a grant variously estimated at £50,000, £75,000, and £100,000, for his services during the earlier part of the war. Whatever the amount may prove to be, the proposal is certain to provoke a lively controversy, for even if the Liberals support the Government the Nationalists will offer the project a determined resistance.

Readers of the Parliamentary reports in the only newspaper which continues to report Parliament at all fully must have been puzzled by a passage in Lord Rosebery's speech of last Monday. "After the scoffs and sneers of the Prime Minister," the ex-Premier is reported to have said, "we might almost expect that Lord Stanmore would take one step further and, leaving the cross-benches, find a resting place here. Another disappointment!" What

was the meaning of this cryptical exclamation? The report did not explain, for the leading journal seldom condescends to description. Yet the incident to which Lord Rosebery's remark applied was not without significance. He had jocularly invited Lord Stanmore, a peer of uncertain political allegiance, to join the Opposition. The mere suggestion struck terror into the heart of that peer. Rising from the cross-benches he hastily sought refuge from the tempter behind Lord Salisbury. "Another disappointment!" exclaimed Lord Rosebery tragically, the peers meanwhile breaking into unsympathetic laughter.

Lord Rosebery's ploughing match is making slow progress. He may have added one more furrow to the deeply corrugated brow of the Liberal party, but if so there is no tangible evidence of the fact. Liberals are going about their business pretty much as usual. They have fought shy of agricultural implements ever since the day when Mr. Asquith detected them in the strange occupation—partly bucolic, partly marine, and wholly unprofitable—of ploughing the sands of the shore. The ex-Premier had hoped to entice a few Liberal Unionist hands into his lonely field, but they continue to regard him from the more comfortable side of the hedge. "To put it mildly," says Mr. Arthur Elliot, "you are a little illogical in appealing to us to come and help you. Why should we? You ask us to form an Opposition for the purpose of backing up Lord Salisbury. But we are doing that already. Why should we go into opposition to do just what we are doing now?"

To that question no answer is possible. The Liberal Unionists are quite satisfied with their present company, and if they were to join Lord Rosebery and a select company of Liberal Imperialists in a pretended opposition to the Government they would be responsible for organising yet another hypocrisy. Lord Rosebery's plough will doubtless lead him through the hedge before long. At all events, it is quite obvious that the Liberal party mean to have nothing to do with his new-fangled notions. The ex-Premier once wrote a little book on Peel, in the course of which, commenting on that statesman's sentiment of "Perish my party; let me save my country," he shrewdly observed that "parties do not like perishing and always see more available and comfortable methods of saving the country." In one respect, at least, as Lord Rosebery is beginning to realise, parties have not greatly changed since the days of Peel.

A petition for the remission of part of Earl Russell's sentence is being numerously signed. If the titled culprit had been tried at the Old Bailey his trial would have cost a few pounds, and his sentence in all probability would not have exceeded a few days' imprisonment. His peers sent him to Holloway for three months, perhaps with the idea of observing a certain proportion between the extent of the punishment and the majesty of the House of Lords. Lord Russell is probably very comfortable in his new quarters. He occupies the room formerly tenanted by Mr. W. T. Stead and the late Mr. Edmund Yates, has plenty of books, directs his own cuisine, and may either receive visitors or get his gaoler to tell them that he is not at home. Many a student would give a good deal for so sequestered a hermitage, and Lord Russell, it appears, is himself a student. He is reading for a Bar examination—a process which it is a pity he had not completed before trying conclusions in legal knowledge with the Lord Chancellor.

Thanks to the recent spell of tropical weather, Londoners are beginning to dress as carelessly and with as single an eye to comfort as their Parisian rivals. Straw hats have long since ceased to be an anomaly in Parliament, where indeed the masculine dress reformer daily airs his most amazing eccentricities. More significant of the extent of the revolution is the laxity of Throgmorton Street. Grey-haired seniors, panoplied in black coats and silk hats, shudder as they rub shoulders with a younger generation of stockjobbers that dares to bring flannels and outrageous headgear into Mammon's very temples. West of the Law Courts one may wear anything. Even the footmen have been going about with Panamas on their heads and sunshades in their hands. Year by year the summer solstice makes a new encroachment on our habits. Its next bequest will probably be the open-air café.

NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

THE FAMINE AND THE FAMINE UNION.

[From an Indian Correspondent.]

Bombay, July 6.

The want of rain in the Punjab, the North-West Provinces, and Oudh and in Gujerat is again the subject of great anxiety. Should the July rains, which are the heaviest throughout India, fail in these places, it would signify another year of scarcity if not famine. That would be an evil day for the people already crushed by the effects of the bad harvests of the last few years. And no province will be so heavily bowed down as Gujerat, where the peasantry has not had a minute's breathing-space in which to recover from the cruel blows the past unfavourable seasons have given. Let us all hope that nature may be bountiful and that, with the new century, brighter and more hopeful prospects may prevail. All is not yet lost. The country's sufferings and sacrifices since 1896-97 have been enough; and it is high time that want and destitution, and all their attendant consequences, were replaced by sufficiency and something more.

The institution of the "Indian Famine Union" at such a juncture is, therefore, an event which is full of significance. Judging from the inaugural proceedings, it seems it could not have been started under better auspices and with greater hopefulness. Here we all approve of the neutral lines on which its work is to proceed. It is a national work, but without the slightest feeling of partisanship. All must pull together, for unity is strength, and strength begets strength which is the mother of confidence. Once the operations of the Union inspire confidence, the way for further activity will be smooth. If all, again, work with a singlemindedness of purpose and to the one end in view, it is hoped that much good will be achieved. The Secretary of State invited all to co-operate with him in order that from the present good government we may evolve a better one. The promoters of the Union have, I see, taken him at his word and, without allowing the grass to grow under their feet, have offered themselves to work with him. What is now wanted is the right line on which to work. All must be agreed in the first instance as to what that line is.

With so experienced and practised a statesman as Mr. Leonard Courtney at the head of the Union, there is every chance of the right line being fixed. Respected by all the great parties in the State, independent of thought, deeply versed in economics—Mr. Courtney makes an ideal Chairman. Here he has inspired the greatest confidence so far as I have probed the general feeling of the community. He is a name to be conjured with in such matters. Only one wishes he may revisit India, as the venerable Mr. Samuel Smith did some years since. For in that case he is more likely to understand the situation, and with his firm grasp of economic principles he would soon be able to turn to practical use the salient facts of the enquiry. Sir William Wedderburn has correctly observed that it is on the economics of typical villages in each province that the entire framework of the agricultural system in India depends. If Mr. Courtney, during the next cold weather, could conveniently revisit India, and learn the economic facts of two or three typical villages in the principal provinces on the spot, he would be sure to quicken the enquiry, and therefore to achieve the primary object. He might have also the opportunity at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras to meet the leading men. The information he might derive from them would be helpful. None more than the Congress has for the last four years appealed to Government to set upon such enquiry as the one which the Union has now formulated. We look upon two such independent and experienced statesmen as Mr. Courtney and Lord Hobhouse as towers of strength. There are, besides, Lord Ripon and Lord Northbrook, two ex-Viceroys whose deep and abiding sympathy with the Indian rayat is well known. The Union might be able to derive some excellent hints from Lord Cromer. His experience of the Egyptian and the Indian cultivator may be said to be almost unique. And no administrator could be a better friendly adviser than the popular Sir Evelyn Baring, as all India knew him during the beneficent Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon. Altogether the Union starts

under the best auspices and we Indians not only welcome it but wish it God-speed in its self-imposed and most benevolent work.

CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

Thursday, July 18.—In the House of Commons Mr. Long asked leave to introduce a Bill to continue the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, the Tithe Rent Charge (Rates) Act, 1899, and similar Acts relating to Scotland. The Bill, he said, was a short one, consisting of two clauses. Under the original Acts their duration was limited to five years, but the Government had had to consider whether a limitation of a similar kind should be imposed, or whether the measure should be re-enacted so as to leave its duration "till Parliament otherwise determines," and they had adopted the latter course. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman strongly protested against the introduction of such a contentious Bill under the ten minutes rule. Mr. Balfour, he said, had described it as a continuation Bill, but it was a Bill to make the Act permanent, and would be strenuously opposed. He invited the Speaker to exercise his discretionary power and to put the question that the debate be adjourned. The Speaker declined to follow the course suggested. The only effect, he said, would be that he would be invited to express an opinion, and would immediately afterwards invite the majority to overrule his view. That was an inconvenient position in which to put the Chair, and he must not be taken as in any way expressing an opinion either for or against the introduction of the Bill. On a division leave to introduce the Bill was given by 259 votes to 176.

The War Office issued a long despatch from Lord Kitchener, sent from Bloemfontein on Wednesday, giving the text of some correspondence between Mr. Reitz, the Transvaal State Secretary, and Mr. Steyn, the ex-President of the Orange Free State. Mr. Reitz described a meeting of the Transvaal Government at which the desperate condition of the Boer forces was admitted, and informed Mr. Steyn that the Transvaal Government had decided to ask for permission to send a message to Mr. Kruger to point out the terrible condition of the country. He added that if their request was refused they intended to ask for an armistice to obtain the opinion of both nations on the situation. Mr. Steyn in his reply urged that the time had not come to ask for an armistice, and expressed his regret that permission to send a messenger to Mr. Kruger had been asked for without consulting him.

Friday, July 19.—Lord Rosebery, addressing the City Liberal Club this afternoon, said that, in spite of the hullaballoo about his letter, no one had disproved, or could disprove, his statements. He held to them all; he firmly believed that until the Liberal party were united on foreign and Imperial questions, which had begun to break them up before the Home Rule Bill was introduced, they would be powerless. He had been led to speak out on this matter by the Queen's Hall and National Reform Union meetings, which showed that within the party there existed irreconcilable differences about the war. For his own part he did not say whether the war was right or wrong, but from the moment when the Boers invaded our dominions he made up his mind to support the Government warmly and enthusiastically. If the Liberal party had taken this view they might have done much better at the general election, for on domestic questions they were united and they had the field to themselves, while the blunders and weakness of the Government provided the fullest opportunities for criticism. He believed that eventually the Liberal party would emerge from its difficulties, sound on Imperial questions and ready to carry out a broad programme of domestic reform. As to his own personal future, Lord Rosebery said he should certainly not return voluntarily to the Liberal party now, but he hinted that there were possibilities ahead if his present attitude should attract to his side others who thought as he did.

The Asquith Dinner took place in the evening. Sir Edward Grey, who proposed the health of the guest, spoke of him as being the man who could do as much as anyone to make the Liberal party the party of the future. Mr. Asquith, after denying that his action had been in any way connected with conspiracy or private rancour, said that he thought much good had been done by his protest against the Liberal party as a whole being identified with one section of it which disapproved of the war. He believed that the party would no longer allow its opponents to pose as the only supporters of the Empire, which represented to Liberals the greatest experiment in free self-government that the world had ever seen. When they were no longer suspected of being anti-Imperial, they could take in hand the settlement of many social problems, which would never be settled by the abortive efforts of the party in power. Sir Henry Fowler also spoke, predicting that Mr. Asquith's eloquent statement of Liberal doctrine would be received throughout the country with enthusiasm.

Lord Kitchener reported that seven men of the Connaught Rangers were killed and three officers and 17 men wounded in a fight near Jamestown on July 14. A superior force of the enemy was, however, driven off.—The Cape colonial forces were, it was stated, to be used henceforward in the colony alone.—Another 500 Boer prisoners arrived at Bermuda.

Saturday, July 20.—Mrs. Kruger, wife of the ex-President of the Transvaal, died at Pretoria.

It was reported that General Rundle's column, which left Harrismith, in the Orange River Colony, at the beginning of the month, had arrived at Standerton, in the Transvaal. On the 12th inst. the Yeomanry came upon a party of Boers near Vrede at very close range, and the Boer leader, Captain Botha, son of General P. Botha, was killed. Major Pine-Coffin left Honingspruit, 20 miles north of Kroonstad, in the Orange River Colony, early on Friday morning, and surprised Cellier's commando between Halan's Kop and Doornkop at dawn. Fourteen Boers were captured, including two of General Prinsloo's sons. Major Holmes left Kroonstad the same day to co-operate with Major Pine-Coffin, and came in contact with a Boer force of sixty men at noon. No details of the engagement had been received. The Boers who were taken prisoners by Major Pine-Coffin stated that the men who were still in the field continued fighting in the hope of some settlement which would restore their independence. In Cape Colony Colonel Crabbe had a slight engagement with Kritzinger's commando near Cradock.

The Bisley Meeting ended. A Scotsman named Ommundsen won the King's Prize, and a Guernsey man carried off the St. George's Vase. Lord Roberts, after distributing the prizes, pointed out the great necessity of musketry training for modern warfare, and discussed the lessons which the war in South Africa had taught in this respect. The Commander-in-Chief made an earnest appeal for full-sized rifle ranges throughout the country.

Sunday, July 21.—The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall had to change their plans slightly owing to bad weather, and the Ophir put in at Albany instead of making for Freemantle. From Albany their Royal Highnesses to-day went on to Perth by train.

Monday, July 22.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Brodrick in reply to a question stated that the ladies appointed to visit the Boer concentration camps were Lady Knox, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Miss Lucy Deane, his Majesty's Inspector of Factories, and three others, whom he named.

The customary resolution allotting three additional days to the business of Supply was agreed to and then Mr. Balfour submitted his motion for the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule for the remainder of the Session, and made a statement as to the position of public business and the intentions of the Government. It would be necessary, he said, before the Session came to an end to dispose of the Loan Bill, the Education Bill (No. 2), and the Rating Bill, which were both controversial, but, luckily, not very long; a Military Works Bill and a Naval Works Bill, neither of which had yet been introduced, the Militia and Yeomanry Bill, the Factories Bill, which was making satisfactory progress in Grand Committee, and a Bill dealing with the Royal style and title of the King, to which it was proposed to make an addition in view of the growth of the colonial Empire during the reign of the late Queen. These were the general Bills awaiting consideration, and there were besides nine departmental measures which must be passed. Among these he mentioned the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, from which controversial matter had as far as possible been excluded. In another class he put the Bills which could not be passed if they were seriously opposed. These were the Supreme Court of Judicature (Appeals) Bill, a Teachers' Tenure Bill, not yet introduced, a small Bill concerning local government in Ireland, another relating to the Bank of Ireland, and the Prisons (Scotland) Bill. For the consideration of Supply in Committee there remained five days and one day for its consideration on report. Two estimates, not of the ordinary kind, were also to be submitted—one being for a grant to Lord Roberts and the other for the cost of civil administration in the Transvaal. They would not be included in the allotted days. His programme, he believed, need not involve any very great labour, but he feared there was no prospect of proroguing before August 17.

An interesting debate followed. Mr. Redmond said the House was overweighted with work, and the only remedy was a devolution of business to local assemblies. Mr. Bryce suggested that, in order to save time, Mr. Balfour should substitute for the Education Bill a measure to prolong the "status quo" under conditions imposed by the Board of Education. Sir W. Harcourt strongly disapproved of the repeated application of the closure. Mr. Asquith thought the time had come for adopting an extensive system of devolution, consistent with Imperial unity and with the supreme control of Parliament over all parts of his Majesty's dominions. The present antiquated system of private Bill procedure ought also to be reformed. There remained, if the prorogation was to take place on August 17, 20 Parliamentary days for the transaction of business. In this time some 20 Bills were to be disposed of and nearly 100 votes in Supply. The House was in danger of being reduced to the position of registering automatically the decrees of the Government.

Lord Kitchener reported that last week 43 Boers were killed, 25 were wounded, 190 were taken prisoners, and 126 surrendered. We also captured 5,600 horses, 162 wagons, and quantities of ammunition and stock. General French was stated to be pressing northward the Boer bands in Cape Colony, but two determined attacks had been made by the Boers on Aberdeen.

Mr. Samuel Pope, K.C., the well-known leader of the Parliamentary Bar, died in London. He was in his 75th year.

Tuesday, July 23.—In the House of Commons the Committee Stage of the Education Bill (No. 2) was resumed, Mr. J. W. Lowther being in the chair.

Lord Milner was presented with the freedom of the City of London, and made a speech in acknowledgment of the honour. He said he regarded the virtual agreement of the great body of the nation on the main issue of the war as a most impressive fact. The old illusion, so sedulously fostered and at one time so dangerous, that the war was due to the intrigues of capitalists or to any personal or petty cause, was now virtually extinct. Deep and universal as was the longing for peace, anxious as we

all were to make submission easy to every honourable enemy, there were few who would be willing to purchase peace by any concession that might compromise the future or run the risk of popularising rebellion by treating repeated, deliberate, and crime-stained treason on the part of British subjects as a venial offence. There was also on the part of the country, he believed, a general resolve to treat the burghers of the two late Republics when the war was over with such fairness, and even with such generosity, as would help them to accept the tradition and in the long run acquire the sentiment of British citizenship. Further, there was a general recognition of the true character and the splendid devotion to the Empire of the South African loyalists, of their importance to us, and of our duty to them. We must beware in trying to win—as he believed we should—the hearts of our former enemies lest we alienated the confidence of those who all along had been our friends. He had great faith in the efficacy of impartial and incorruptible government, of a bold development of the vast internal resources of the country, and of the gradual and prudent introduction of self-governing institutions, to heal old sores, to create new interests, and gradually to bring the diverse sections of the people to co-operate for the good of their common country. The work of reconstruction had even now begun, and he was in favour of pushing it forward in spite of all drawbacks. It was not only by chasing the Boers in the still disturbed districts, but it was by giving them an object-lesson of good government and reviving industry in the more or less settled districts that the war was to be brought to a close.

It was announced that Viscount Cromer had received an earldom.

Lord Kitchener reported the holding up of a train, which was captured and burnt, near Beaufort West in Cape Colony. We lost three killed and 18 wounded. There had been a fight in the mountains near Cradock, whence a British force, after holding out all day, fell back on Mortimer. In this our casualties were slight.

Wednesday, July 24.—The House of Commons sat till 8.25 p.m. to dispose of the Committee Stage of the "Education" Bill. The Bill was reported without amendment to the House, the Government insisting upon the doctrine of "verbal inspiration," and ruthlessly employing the closure.

It was announced that a Boer laager was surprised on Monday after a forced march. Ten prisoners and 105 horses were captured. A subaltern in charge of a garrison tracked a party of Boers last week and surprised them, killing three or four and capturing as many. Rebels were hanged at Burghersdorp and Somerset East, and four others were sent into penal servitude for ten years each.

The Concentration Camps in South Africa were shown by a Parliamentary paper to have contained last month 85,410 white and 23,489 coloured people. Among the former there were during June 777 deaths and among the latter five.

Mr. Asquith opened at the Whitechapel Art Gallery an exhibition of Chinese industry and art, and in a short speech reviewed the great success which had followed the attempt, made originally from Toynbee Hall, to foster in the East-end the taste for pictures and beautiful things. He also touched upon the multiplication of art galleries and museums throughout the country, and specially commended the present exhibition as being likely to enlighten people's minds upon the manners and customs of a country about which we heard much.

INDIAN FAMINES: THEIR CAUSES AND PREVENTION.—II.

By C. W. Whish.
(Late of the Indian Civil Service.)

We have thus been brought to the consideration of the general question of having a middleman at all. We are instantly reminded of Bengal, for it is there that the middleman was, so to speak, first crystallized into a proprietor, and there that the Native Press tells us no one has ever died of famine. By the bye, if this last statement is incorrect it ought to be disproved. What seems to commend the middleman and the light assessment so much in Bengal is that together they make it possible to dispense almost entirely with a collecting establishment.

Wherever such an establishment exists it must, in the nature of things Oriental, be oppressive. Besides the evil of adding to the burden which the land has to bear, there is the evil of paternal government and that of a bad kind. The people are treated like naughty children, and, so to speak, put into the corner if they are late in paying in their revenue. In some parts of the country the proprietors come to the collecting establishment with their money actually on their persons, and will not give it up until they are shoe-beaten! In some cases the underlings of the establishment collect the rents for them, and then, of course, the "raison d'etre" of a middleman disappears altogether. What I would advocate is simplicity and uniformity of treatment. Have one penalty only, sale of the estate, and let it be understood that it will follow promptly on non-payment. Freed from the incubus of the collecting establishment India would breathe again, and an apparently harsh measure would become the "Magna Charta" of her agricultural prosperity.

Some sort of middleman you will usually require in India, whether you call him proprietor or headman, and this middleman, if he does his duty, will demand and deserve some remuneration for his services. Secure to him his rights, and do not hesitate to demand from him his duties. Make him the magistrate of his village, and let him understand that if the people of his estate are found ruining themselves in the law courts it will cost him his position. Insist upon his co-operating with the authorities in the prevention of crime, and, I had almost written, call upon him to make good all losses arising from criminals frequenting his estate. If he fails—return to the present system under which a self-respecting State-supporting middle class is almost an impossibility. You will find the occasions on which you have to resort to this penalty most delightfully rare! The way to govern India seems to be to leave it severely alone if all goes well, and let it be clearly understood that interference of a most irksome kind will follow on things going wrong.

All the reforms that I have advocated aim at minimising work, and giving the local executive time for acquiring that intimate acquaintance with rural life which alone can tell them whether things are going right or not. There is a great deal too much work done in India as a rule, and the necessary work has to be neglected in consequence. Of all work that of acquiring an intimate acquaintance with the inner workings of things is at once the most important and the most neglected. To aid the authorities in finding out the real condition of the estates committed to their charge, the Agricultural Bank Committees which are to be established all over the country ought to supply the facts which they alone can really know from actual residence in the neighbourhood. They would also be able to advance the money to pay his revenue to any solvent proprietor, and might in time come to pay it in for him. The banks would then become a kind of buffer between the necessarily hard and fast rules of the collecting official and the really solvent revenue-payer, and prevent his being injuriously affected by them.

Having got a revenue system which allows the freest possible scope for spontaneous development to the estates affected by it, the next point is to consider what can be done to help the country to cultivate a potentiality of resistance to famines and other calamities within itself. Everything which tends towards the economic development of the land, and its possession of a recuperative power sufficient to enable it to make headway against calamities with a minimum of State assistance, falls under this category. I have elsewhere treated of the protection of the people against the evils of litigation, but I may repeat the broad principles advocated, viz., amicable settlement of disputes, arbitration, and in the last resort trial of issues of fact by local enquiry instead of on parole evidence taken in court. And a large increase in the number of local tribunals has also been recommended.

There remain two subjects on which a few words are necessary—the employment of indigenous talent in the administration, and the development of local industries.

To take the latter subject first. Have we ever seriously faced the question of how much our commerce has done to stamp out and kill local industries? What counteracting measures have we taken to prevent this from seriously damaging the industrial prosperity of the country? We are already considering the desirability of more technical training in our own schools, how much more is this kind of education necessary in India? I saw in a Native paper the other day a proposal for an association among the young men of India to go to Japan to study trades. If this is really a necessity, does it not show that something is wanting at home?

At the present time nearly every article of domestic consumption is rising daily in price owing to the enormous rate of wages demanded by the European workman. Could not something systematic be done to start industries which should compete successfully with those of Europe in a land where labour is so cheap?

And even in the conduct and prosecution of these industrial undertakings a little artificial stimulus may be necessary at first. The device of stimulating the human body by artificial means, when the action of its functions is sluggish, is one long recognised by the medical profession: and the same sort of thing may be necessary with the body politic.

But the question of State aid in the industrial development of a nation is one too large to be treated of incidentally. I pass on to the question of employment of indigenous talent in the administration. Here, as in the industrial question, we want to be on our guard against too blind an adherence to theory, and the maxims of political economy.

Theoretically it may be right to procure the very best men for the public service regardless of expense. But if we look to the future, and think of the political education of the Native races, we may be content with an inferior personnel, and with work not quite so efficiently done.

And let us be on our guard against too great readiness to undervalue the Native official as compared with the European. I think any candid person must admit that it is quite as much our Native as our European staff which brings about the excellent government of some parts of India. One thing seems certain, and that is that without the Native staff the whole system would collapse.

To sum up the whole matter we seem to want a fair, but not too light assessment, a readiness to reduce where over-assessment is proved, ungrudgingly and immediately, and an ownership for each estate which will bring out its latent resources. A short sharp penalty for default, and agricultural bank com-

mittees ought to make it possible to minimise or dispense altogether with collecting machinery.

Then the agriculturist wants protecting from blackmail and useless expenditure.

Finally we want to develop the country in every possible way, both industrially and from the point of view of employing the people themselves as much as possible in the administration.

To train people like the Indians in habits of thrift and self-control may be a difficult task, but difficulties are the salt of life to the real worker, and our accomplishment of apparent impossibilities is the truest justification for our presence in India.

Who in the world would have imagined we should have turned out such a finished product as an Indian Judge like those who from time to time adorn our High Courts of Judicature? And if we can so manipulate the raw material available to our hand, why should we not turn out a law-abiding State-supporting citizen out of the improvident agriculturist?

If after all famines should occur do not let us be niggardly of our contributions: they may not save a single life, but they may do something towards recouping the drain on the country caused by its exotic administration. India may be called a nation in hospital, and one which needs expensive medical appliances for its case. We should never grudge paying for such in the case of a pauper patient, even admitting that every nation like every individual ought to pay its way. Do all you can to replace the exotic administration by one which is indigenous, and you will have taken the best measures possible to develop the recuperative power of the population. This, after all, is the truest remedy for every calamity.

If what has been suggested is not the right way, then let us think and talk about these things, get as many opinions as possible, and find out what is the right way. Above all let us get those to think and talk who have hitherto failed to do so. In the multitude of counsellors we should at least be sure of a little wisdom, and what is perhaps even more valuable, moderation and a single eye to what is really practicable.

June, 1901.

P.S.—Since writing the above I see that there is a Bill now before the Bombay Government which proposes to prohibit free contract in land. This principle is a very dangerous one, and likely to cause great discontent in India. It is emphatically not the true remedy for agricultural distress.

THE BOMBAY LAND REVENUE BILL.

MEMORIAL FROM THE PRESIDENCY ASSOCIATION.

We have received a copy of the following memorial:—

Bombay Presidency Association.
Apollo Bunder, Bombay, 28th June, 1901.
To the Secretary to Government, Legislative Department, Poona.

Sir,—We have the honour, by direction of the Council of the Bombay Presidency Association, to solicit the attention of Government to the utter inadequacy of the time allowed to the public to examine, discuss, and express their views and opinion on the Bill for amending the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, which was read for the first time on 30th May last in the Legislative Council.

2. It will scarcely be denied that the Bill is one which is capable of being employed to revolutionize the character of land tenure in the Western Presidency, and of transforming the mass of its agricultural population from a limited form of peasant proprietorship into yearly tenants, and ultimately into mere agricultural labourers. In the Supreme Legislative Council, a Bill fraught with such momentous and far-reaching issues would have been sent for opinion to Local Governments and other authorities, and no motion for referring it to a Select Committee would be made till ample opportunity, extending over several months, had been given to enable official and non-official opinion and criticism to express itself. In the case of the Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill, it was referred to a Select Committee on the very day of its first reading, thus allowing scarcely any time to the public for the proper examination and discussion of so important a measure, before being taken in hand by the Select Committee. The Council beg respectfully to submit that it is absolutely essential, in the interests of wise and safe legislation, that an adequate period should expire before the second reading of the Bill be proceeded with; and they venture to suggest that the proceedings should be so timed that it may be taken up in Council not in the sessions held at Poona during the rains, but at the ensuing cold weather sessions in Bombay, and that the time allowed to the Select Committee for making its Report be accordingly extended.

3. This delay is also desirable and requisite for other reasons. There is considerable probability that the Report of last year's Famine Commission presided over by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces would throw light on the condition of the agricultural population of the Presidency and render valuable aid in dealing with the question of revenue assessments and the rigidity of the system which has been more than once officially pronounced to be characteristic of the Bombay system of collections. It is possible also that the report of Mr. Maconochie appointed by the Government to make formal public enquiry into certain allegations in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XII. of the Land Revenue Code, will furnish materials for a careful judgment on the policy of the Bill and its Objects and Reasons. Both these Reports cannot fail to be laid before the public in a short time, and the Council think that it would be most unfortunate that legislation affecting vital agricultural interests of the whole Presidency should be hastily pushed forward without waiting for the publication of these Reports. The necessity for so waiting is all the stronger when it is remembered that Government themselves admit that they are only embarking on an experiment in the policy embodied in the Bill, and that the agricultural system in this Presidency is fraught with dangers and difficulties which are not easy of solution.

4. The Council further venture respectfully to suggest that the opinions of the legal and revenue officers referred to by the honourable member in charge of the Bill in his opening speech should be laid both before the Council and the public. It is only right and proper that it should be clearly understood what has been the opinion of these officers as to the character of the tenure which was deliberately settled in this Presidency.

5. The Council is in a position to know that the introduction of the Bill has caused grave alarm among the people of the Presidency; and there is a strong feeling that adequate time has not been allowed for the expression of public opinion. They, therefore, respectfully beseech the serious consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council to the above suggestions and they trust that His Excellency's Government will be able to see their way to adopt them.—We have the honour to be, etc., Pherozeshah M. Mehta, President; Dinsha Edulji Wacha, Amirudin Tyabji, Chimanlal H. Sitalvad, Honorary Secretaries.

POONA ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

NEW RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSION.

We have received a copy of the following memorial:—

Bombay Presidency Association.
Apollo Bunder, Bombay, 28th June, 1901.
To the Secretary to Government, Education Department, Bombay.

Sir,—We have the honour, by direction of the Council of the Bombay Presidency Association, to submit for the consideration of Government the following representation regarding the numerical limit imposed upon the admissions into the College of Science, Poona (Engineering Branch) for the first time in its history.

On the 6th December 1900, the Principal of the Science College, acting in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction, issued a notification that "owing to increase in numbers it has been decided to hold a competitive examination commencing on January 7th for admission into the Engineering Branch of the College. Forty (40) students will be admitted." This unexpected notification prevented a large number of candidates from obtaining entrance into the College and naturally entailed on them and their parents and guardians considerable hardship and disappointment.

In February last Government laid on the Council Table a paper containing a statement of the circumstances which led the Principal of the College to issue the above notification. Therein it is pointed out that if the Principal had not taken action to limit admissions, "he would have been confronted with a junior class for which accommodation could not possibly be found in the Hall, the class rooms or the Laboratories. The result would have been an entire collapse of the efficient working of the College." The Council, however, understand from the Reports of the Director of Public Instruction that during the years 1884-85 to 1887-88 the number of students attending the College was nearly as large as during the last three years, and that in 1886-87 the number was even larger than it has ever been, including this year. As far as the Council are aware, it has never been suggested that "there was an entire collapse of the efficient working of the College" during these years, or that the then Principal or the Director of Public Instruction or Government allowed such a deplorable condition of things to continue for four years without adopting a suitable remedy. Yet it seems strange that notwithstanding this fact no such restrictive rules were then deemed necessary or actually enforced.

It may be readily conceded that the present accommodation is inadequate to meet the growing requirements of the College. But the Council confidently submit that the proper remedy does not lie in the direction of shutting out a large number of students by means of an arbitrary examination held deliberately for the purpose of admitting only forty students, but in the direction of making the necessary additions to the College building and thus enlarging the existing accommodation. Such an examination is calculated to exclude even capable candidates under certain circumstances and thus inflict a serious hardship upon a deserving class of young aspirants. The restriction imposed by the above-mentioned notification and the arbitrary test applied for the selection of the fortunate forty are, it is respectfully submitted, in direct contravention of the spirit of the Regulations of the University which define the qualifications of a candidate for the Degree of Licentiate of Civil Engineering. They provide along with other qualifications that "A candidate for the Degree of Licentiate of Engineering must have passed the Previous Examination of the University of Bombay or have passed an examination in some University recognised by the University of Bombay which will be considered at least equivalent to the Previous Examination." This Regulation was approved of by Government before it was incorporated amongst the Regulations of the University. It evidently does not contemplate that students should be subjected to any further test before they are admitted into the College. In this connexion

it must be borne in mind that until some years ago those who had passed the Matriculation Examination were allowed entrance into the institution. The University now insists upon a higher standard of qualification, and the Council therefore cannot but lament that candidates answering the test should be shut out on other grounds which are neither academical nor satisfactory.

The Council of the Association further think that the action of Government in sanctioning a restriction on admissions into the College is opposed to the repeated declarations that have of late been made in England as well as in India by the higher authorities of their solicitude to foster the cause of technical education in this country. His Excellency the Governor has in his educational utterances in Bombay and elsewhere often emphasised the vast importance and immense utility of this branch of education. In his last convocation address His Excellency as Chancellor of the University remarked with special reference to instruction in Engineering:—"I also hail with peculiar pleasure every form of encouragement that is given to induce students to turn their attention to the scientific study of Agriculture and Engineering with the view of promoting practical efficiency therein. Predictions are such dangerous things that I, for one, always fight shy of the role of a prophet. But it is not rash to lay down the supposition that scientific cultivation and irrigation of the soil are two of the most indispensable conditions required for India's material happiness and prosperity." The Government of India have in their recent resolution on the subject of irrigation expressed their determination to utilise all the irrigational facilities available throughout the country. That necessarily involves the utilisation of the indigenous engineering talent on a larger scale than at present and the Council cannot but regret the enforcement of a limit which is calculated to conflict with the successful consummation of the beneficent irrigational policy contemplated by the Government of India, and to discourage the advancement of an important branch of technical education in this Presidency.

It is a striking and a deplorable coincidence that the progress of instruction in Engineering should have received a check in three different directions in recent times. Till 1896, Indians from every part of the Empire, including "Statutory Natives," were allowed to compete for the guaranteed appointments reserved for the Thomason Civil Engineering College at Roorkee. But an alteration was made in the rules in 1897 which practically closes the door against the purely Native residents of the Presidencies of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, though the European and Eurasian residents of such Presidencies are allowed to compete. This unjust and indefensible innovation has been followed up by the Secretary of State for India who has limited to two the admissions of the Natives of India to the Indian Public Works Department through the Cooper's Hill College. This unjustifiable limitation is still the subject of universal criticism and the cause of wide-spread dissatisfaction in the country. It is, therefore, a matter of profound regret that a fresh cause of disappointment and dissatisfaction should have arisen owing to the sudden curtailment of the facilities for instruction in Civil Engineering sanctioned by the local authorities with a view to obviate the difficulty which was expected to arise from the growing number of students. The Council of the Association respectfully venture to assert that the conjoint operation of these restrictions can only prove extremely prejudicial to the best interests of scientific education in Engineering in this Presidency and that the restrictions themselves are likely to produce a grave misapprehension in the mind of the public regarding the attitude of Government towards the cultivation by Indians of the science of Civil Engineering and the legitimate aspirations of educated Natives desiring to qualify themselves for the higher departments of skill and knowledge.

The Council of the Association beg to point out that their views in regard to these restrictive measures find abundant justification in the eloquent description of the educational policy of British Government in this country which His Excellency Lord Curzon gave in his speech recently delivered at the Alighar College. The present policy of retrogression as evidenced by these measures, whatever may be the causes which have led to it, is scarcely in accord with the Viceroy's solemn and authoritative declaration. "We have truly endeavoured," he observed, "to fling wide open the gates of the temple of knowledge and to draw multitudes in. We have sought to make education not the requisite or prerogative of the few but the possession of the many. . . . In my judgment, it has not only been an enlightened policy, it has also been a wise one, and I do not believe that you will ever have a Viceroy or a Lieutenant-Governor who will desire to close by one inch the opened door or to drive out a single human being who has entered in." The Council desire nothing more than the faithful fulfilment of this liberal-minded policy, and therefore feel constrained to deprecate any departure from it to the prejudice of higher culture and knowledge in this country.

The Council do not think it necessary to traverse the ground taken up by the Deccan Sabha in its well-informed representation on the present subject. But they humbly pray that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be pleased to take an early opportunity to assure the public mind regarding the future intentions of Government with reference to the restriction placed upon the admissions into the College and to take such prompt measures as may be necessary for removing all grounds of dissatisfaction in this connexion. The Council are not unaware of the strain to which the finances of the provincial administration have been subjected by plague and famine. But at the same time they feel convinced that the most elementary requirements of a progressive institution which is the only one of its kind in the whole of Western India should not be allowed to remain unsatisfied to the prejudice of qualified candidates seeking admission into it. In conclusion, the Council trust that under the regime of His Excellency Lord Northcote, who has so often expressed his strong sympathy with the cause of technical education, the existing facilities for instruction in Engineering will be considerably increased rather than diminished and that he will be able to give practical effect to his ardent desire to further the progress of technical instruction in this Presidency.—We have the honour to be, etc., Pherozeshah M. Mehta, President; Dinsha Edulji Wacha, Amirudin Tyabji, Chimanlal H. Sitalvad, Honorary Secretaries.

Imperial Parliament.

Thursday, July 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had recently received a despatch from the Government of India having reference to the complaints of the Indian Staff Corps Officers in respect of their supersession by Officers of the British Service: Whether the Government of India were aware of the urgency of the grievance, and had made recommendations for remedying it; and whether any decision had yet been arrived at; and, if not, could he state when he would be in a position to make a definite announcement on the subject.

Lord G. Hamilton: This matter has been for some time under consideration; but within the last few days on the recommendation of the Government of India I have sanctioned a reduction of the periods qualifying for promotion to the ranks of Captain and Major in the Indian Staff Corps from 11 to 9 years and from 20 to 18 years respectively.

Monday, July 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

East India (Accounts and Estimates, 1901-2),—Copy presented, —of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India (by command); to lie upon the Table.

THE SCINDE, PUNJAB, AND DELHI RAILWAYS.

Mr. Caine asked the Secretary of State for India if he was aware that there had been a sum of nearly £10,000 lying without interest at the Bank of England to the credit of the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway for nearly 20 years; that in 1886 this undertaking was vested in the Government of India; and that section 54 of the Act provided for the eventual dissolution of the company; was he aware that this clause had been virtually inoperative, the company though still in existence being without direction, the last surviving director having died last year; and, seeing that this deposit represented various sums distributable, under section 53 of the Act, between the stockholders of the company, to parties who could be traced, would he introduce a Bill providing for the final dissolution of the railway company, and authorising the bank to pay the money to the Secretary of State, subject, within a clearly defined period, to the presentation of any cheques now in existence signed by the late directors of the company.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway was purchased at the beginning of 1886. In March, 1889, the amounts outstanding on account of surplus profits, unclaimed dividends, etc., were £133,596, which by December, 1894, had been reduced to £9,741. The sum now outstanding is stated to be £9,728. The company was an English one and the assets have always been in England. It would be apparently for the Treasury as guardian of the Imperial revenues, not for the Secretary of State in Council, to consider the question of transferring the money to the Crown, and I will communicate with them on the matter.

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state how many Government scholarships were awarded annually to graduates of Indian Universities for the purpose of pursuing their studies in Great Britain; whether it was an indispensable condition of these scholarships that those holding them should join the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge; and, considering the need of technical education in India and the absence of adequate means for such instruction there, he would consider the advisability of founding additional scholarships for the special purpose of enabling selected candidates to pursue technical studies in Great Britain or other countries of Europe.

Lord G. Hamilton: Two Government scholarships are awarded annually to graduates of Indian Universities. The scholars are required to join the University of Oxford or that of Cambridge. The provision of technical instruction in India is a matter of great importance, and the Government of India have done and are doing much to develop and improve it. I will call their attention to the suggestion of my hon. friend with regard to the foundation of additional scholarships for

enabling the selected candidates to pursue technical studies in Europe; but I cannot at present promise anything more than this.

Tuesday, July 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BOMBAY AND SCINDE.

Sir John Leng asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to a line of railway which had been surveyed through the territory of the Rao of Kutch which would link up Gujerat, Kathiawar, Kutch, and Scinde by a system of railways, facilitating communication in the Presidency, developing local industry in the coal and metal mines, and diminishing the risks of famine, besides having strategical advantages: And, seeing that memorials in favour of this line had been addressed to the Viceroy and Government of India on behalf of the population, and from the Kutchi residents in Bombay praying for the construction of this line as part of the Bombay-Scinde Railway scheme, could he state why the line had been placed so low down as 17th on the list of new lines to be undertaken when funds could be found; whether the opposition of the Rao of Kutch had had any influence in the matter; and whether there was a prospect of the construction of the line being expedited.

Lord G. Hamilton: The importance of establishing a more direct railway communication between Bombay and Scinde than that which at present exists, is fully admitted; but there are railway projects of greater urgency awaiting execution, and I am not prepared to set them aside in favour of the scheme referred to, which only promises a return of 2 per cent. upon the cost of its construction. The views of the Rao of Kutch have received due consideration; but the reason why the line is low down the list is what I have stated.

Thursday, July 18.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RAINFALL AND CROPS.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India if he had received any official reports regarding the rainfall throughout India up to date; whether the rains in the districts of Western India and Gujerat and Kattywar, which had been affected by famine during the last two years, were up to the normal average; and whether the official reports showed the prospects of the ensuing crops to be favourable.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have received of late three or four official telegrams, which I have communicated to the Press, regarding the rainfall in India and the agricultural outlook. My latest information is contained in the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated yesterday:—"Monsoon is irregular and weak. Rainfall much below average everywhere, except West Coast districts and in part of Deccan, Burma, and Eastern Bengal. But it is sufficient for sowings generally, except in case of Punjab and part Gujerat. Condition and prospects of crops in North-Western Provinces, Bengal, and Madras causes no anxiety; but crops are withering in part of Central Provinces and Bombay, and heavy rain is urgently needed for rice crops. Good rain has fallen in Bombay Deccan, but Gujerat in parts has received very little rain and usual sowings are greatly retarded. Prospects generally have not yet suffered materially."

DISEASE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

Mr. Caine asked the Secretary of State for India if his attention had been called to the ratio per 1,000 of mean strength of admissions to hospital for venereal disease of soldiers in the Military districts of Allahabad, Rohilkand, Bangalore, Rangoon, Mandalay, and Bombay; if he was aware that the aggregate admissions in these six districts average 351 per 1,000 as compared with 250 per 1,000 over the whole of India, inclusive of these six districts, and only 174 per 1,000 in the six districts of Sirhind, Poona, Mhow, Aden, Quetta, and Nagpur; and if he would order a careful enquiry into the cause of this rate in the six former districts.

Lord G. Hamilton: The figures given by the hon. member are substantially correct. The admission rate for venereal diseases among the British Army in India as a whole has, however, been reduced from 522 per 1,000 men, at which I found it in 1895, to 313 per 1,000 in 1899, a reduction of over 40 per cent. in four years; and the districts which the hon. member instances as specially bad ones have shared materially in this reduction, the mean admission rate in them having fallen in the same period from 519 to 352. I believe that the Government of India are doing all that they legitimately can to combat this evil; and I do not think that the enquiry which the hon. member suggests would yield any valuable results.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India in view of the fact that the Government of India sent a despatch, dated January 17, 1901, dealing finally with the petitions from numerous Cooper's Hill officers in India, in which they complained of breach of the terms of their engagement, and that this was the last of a series of despatches on the same subject extending over 10 years, whether a final decision could now be given, and whether he would now consent to lay upon the Table the Correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the subject.

Lord G. Hamilton: My reply to the Government of India's letter referred to in my hon. friend's question was given in a despatch dated June 7, which contains the final decision of the Secretary of State in Council on the subject. I am now prepared to lay the Government of India's letter and my reply upon the Table of the House.

BRITISH INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention had been drawn to a representation, dated April 20, 1901, signed by a number of British Indian trading firms and residents in South Africa complaining that the regulations directed against them by the late Boer administrators in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony were being still enforced: Whether he had now discussed with Lord Milner this matter with a view to repealing those regulations; and, if so, would he state the conclusion at which he had arrived.

Mr. Chamberlain: The representation has been brought to my notice by my hon. friend, and I am making enquiry in regard to the allegations contained in it. The status of his Majesty's Indian subjects in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony is a matter of considerable complexity which, I fear, cannot be settled by a simple repeal of the laws of the late Republics on the subject. I have been obliged to reserve it for consideration after Lord Milner's return to South Africa, but I may add that both Lord Milner and myself will approach in a sympathetic spirit any proved grievances of our Indian fellow-subjects in the new colonies.

Mr. Keir Hardie asked whether the same regulations would be applied to Indian subjects in Natal as were applied in the Transvaal, and whether consideration would be given to this question at the same time. (Cheers.)

Mr. Chamberlain: I could not answer the first part of the question without notice because I do not know exactly what the regulations are; but his Majesty's Government would not interfere with regulations made by a responsible Government of a colony. (Ironical cheers.)

THE MEKRAN EXPEDITION.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the fact that the Indian Government had recommended the grant of the Frontier Medal to the men who took part in the Mekran Expedition in 1898, for which the officer in command received a C.B., and two officers were awarded a D.S.O., while others were mentioned in despatches, he could explain why the grant of the medal had been withheld from the troops who, to the number of about 1,000, took part in the operations for which the officers received special recognition.

Lord G. Hamilton: The question of the grant of a medal for the Mekran operations has been very carefully considered on two separate occasions, and has been decided in the negative. The honours mentioned in my hon. friend's question were conferred for special and personal services, in which the force generally had no share.

Friday, July 19.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CABLE COMMUNICATION.

Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the establishment of the Cape-Australia Cable, he had in consideration the desirability of a spur line from Cocos to Ceylon in association with the Imperial Government as a practically all-British route from the United Kingdom to India.

Lord G. Hamilton: An inter-departmental Committee is now sitting to consider and report upon the question of cable communication generally. I have reason to believe that their attention has been called to the matter to which my hon. friend's question refers, and I await the receipt of their report.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Notice has been given of the following Questions:—

Mr. Caine,—To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether any restrictions are intended to be imposed upon the present system of trial by jury in India; and, if so, whether he will explain to the House the reasons offered for such restrictions; and whether the House will have an opportunity of discussing the matter before a final decision is taken.—(Thursday, July 25.)

Mr. Field,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can give the date upon which the Indian Budget will be discussed.—(Thursday, July 25.)

Sir John Kennaway,—To ask the Secretary of State for India what effect has been given by the Local Governments in India to the Government of India's Resolution in the Quinquennial Review of Education, by Mr. F. S. Cotton, published in the "Gazette" of India, November 4, 1899, for the clear determination of the relations between private enterprise and the State.—(Thursday, August 1.)

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

MONSOON IRREGULAR AND WEAK.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated July 17:—

"Famine.—Your telegram of 15th July. Monsoon is irregular and weak. Rainfalls much below average every-

where, except West Coast Districts and in part of Deccan, Burma, and Eastern Bengal, but it is sufficient for sowings generally, except in case of Punjab and part Gujerat. Condition and prospects of crops, North-Western Provinces, Bengal, and Madras causes no anxiety, but crops are withering in part of Central Provinces and Bombay, and heavy rain is urgently needed for rice crops. Good rain has fallen in Bombay Deccan, but Gujerat, in parts, has received very little rain, and usual sowings greatly retarded. Prospects generally have not yet suffered materially."

PRESENTATION TO SIR M. M. BHOWNAGGREE, M.P.

A reception was given on Tuesday night in the Victoria-hall, Hotel Cecil, by Parsee residents in England and other friends in honour of Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E., M.P. Among those present were Prince Mehdi Ali Khan, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., the Earl of Hardwicke, Sir R. Temple, Sir C. Lyall, Sir E. Sassoon, M.P., Sir W. Lee Warner, Sir H. Seymour King, M.P., General Sir Owen Burne, Colonel Temple, and Sir George Birdwood. In the course of the evening a Worcester tea service, each cup set in filagree silver, was presented to Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, the morocco case bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Sir M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E., M.P., with the congratulations of the Parsees residing in London and other friends on the occasion of his re-election for the Parliamentary division of North-East Bethnal-green." Mr. D. Byramjee presided, and Mr. D. P. Cama made the presentation, and referred to the labours of Sir M. Bhownaggree in the House of Commons. In acknowledging the gift, Sir Muncherji said it was gratifying that a great English metropolitan constituency had, in its representative, stretched forth the right hand of fellowship across the seas to the most important appanage of the British Crown. In this were to be found potential elements of that Imperial unity towards the consummation of which every patriotic British subject now directed his energies, and if he should be able to insert a small brick from the loyal soil of Hindustan towards the formation of that splendid fabric of a united Empire he should feel that he had been fully compensated.

THE FAILURE OF THE INDIAN LOAN.

The "Investors' Review" writes (July 20):—

Everybody is wise now after the event, and the Secretary of State for India is told that he asked too much for the £3,000,000 3 per cent. India stock offered by him in the end of last week. "How could he expect to get 98 for it?" the market man of wisdom said. In fairness to this high Indian functionary it may be pointed out when he, or his Council, fixed the price of the new issue the price of the existing 3 per cent. stock was 100. No sooner, however, did the loan appear than the market thrust the quotation down to 98 and assumed an attitude of hostility towards the fresh issue, which no one wanted just then at any price. It was never quoted at an appreciable premium; in fact, nobody in the market, except a few venturesome "bears," took the slightest interest in it, their hands being full elsewhere. Consequently, out and out applications were limited to little more than one-fourth of the issue, and instead of announcing an allotment on Tuesday evening the Secretary of State had to confess failure. We were assured that it would be all right almost up to the last hour, because steps had been taken to secure a sort of "ad interim" subscription to save the Government's face. This information turned out to be inaccurate, and there is no disguising the fact that the Government of India is in rather an awkward fix. It will either have to sell what of the loan it can and keep the rest at the risk of having to dispose of it at a lower figure, or withdraw the whole and resort to temporary expedients for obtaining money in the hope that better opportunities may arise later.

That, however, is a vain hope. We doubt if the British public would take the whole of this £3,000,000 were the stock offered at 96, or even 95. Price is not the obstacle, the public does not possess the means. How often is it necessary to repeat that most of what we call "wealth" is "credit." The nation lives, and has lived for generations, on credit, stimulating trade by borrowing, developing new acquisitions with the same dangerous assistance, pledging and mortgaging each new acquisition in its haste to be, or to seem, richer and richer, until we have fallen into a habit of leaning upon the usurer in every movement of business and relation of life. The true reason, therefore, why this loan has failed lies in the want of available credit with which to take it up, and the failure merely emphasises the danger into which our market is drifting. The unprecedented war expenditure has not only drained the country of all its free, or in any way available, resources, but has also led to the over-pledging of the credit of individuals and institutions in order to subscribe for new issues of Government stock to an extent that for the time being almost paralyses the community in relation to fresh commitments in other directions. Nor is this all. The struggle to find the means to keep the Government expenditure fed has powerfully aided other influences to produce a general and disastrous depression in the prices of all kinds of public securities. The effect of this depression is that credit is straitened everywhere, and neither individuals nor companies usually possessed of large means have any longer elbow room. All the market has become hampered, so that it begins to look with dread upon any fresh call upon it for assistance. That is the true lesson of the failure of this loan, and much might be gained if the Government would only wake up to its significance.

BRITISH INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The following letter appeared in the "Natal Mercury" of June 26 last:—

Sir,—Attention has been often drawn to disabilities under which British-Indian subjects of the King-Emperor suffer, more or less, in the Colonies of Great Britain. Representation after representation has been made, through the Press and by memorials, etc., to his Majesty's Government for the removal of at least some of the more serious of these disabilities. For this, writers and sympathisers have had to refer to specific instances of hardship, to general cases of Indian disqualifications and other summary limitations of the political and social privileges of Indians who have migrated to and settled in South Africa. But nowhere else will a description of these disabilities and hardships be found compassed together in such a space as in the Parliamentary circle of Maritzburg, with reference to the restrictions imposed upon the immigration and residence of Indians to and in Zululand and Natal. The speeches of the Prime Minister, besides being a painful reminder to the people of India of the unimportant position which is grudgingly allowed them in the Empire of which India is said to be an integral factor, is a humiliating confession of the helplessness of the Imperial Government in equalizing the treatment meted out to all citizens of the Empire. An article in the "Witness" seems to accord ill with the times in which we live, and such an article at the present time seems to be a humorous circumstance, setting in bold relief as it does the position and status of Indians in the Colonies of Great Britain as compared to that of the white races, whether of British descent, or of Hollander, etc. Such speeches and publication jar all the more with the present time, when the spirit of Imperialism is permeating every corner of the vast dominion under the sway of Edward VII., when great emphasis is being laid on the solidarity of the British Empire being the most conspicuous product of the century now closed, when high hopes are being entertained that the 20th century will witness a still further strengthening of the ties that bind the numerous citizens of the Empire, and a yet further equalising of the rights and privileges enjoyed by its citizens in its different parts, and finally, when the leaders of opinion in England and Natal have been quick to recognise the value and importance of India. In Natal, where Indian immigrants have been of more use in the development of its industrial resources, and in materially helping in their prosperity than any other race of men, alas! here they are, nevertheless, subject to disabilities greater than in any other Colony of Great Britain.

South Africa is well-known as a hot-bed of racial prejudices and party contests, and in its world-wide interest at present, though the history of the immigration of British Indians in South Africa is not so universally known, the subject is none the less full of painful interest to the loyal millions of India. Let them forget the treatment to which those of their countrymen who are in Natal are subjected by its Government, its Corporations, and have cause to feel pride when contrasting the attitude of the Administration of Natal and the so-called better administration of the new Colonies towards Indians, with the loyal help which its Indian settlers accorded in the present war. This is how a prominent Home paper puts it:—"This is not the spirit in which the Princes and the people of India have treated this country. When the war in South Africa began, people in India did not wait to see how soon Great Britain would exhaust her borrowing powers. They eagerly subscribed money to bring succour to wounded British soldiers, by whose side they would eagerly have fought if they had been permitted to do so. The Indian Government has played its part; it was the soldiers borrowed from the Indian establishment who saved Natal from being completely overrun by the Boers, and the same Indian who is subject to various restrictions in Natal and elsewhere was the first on the scene to defend and bleed for the interests of the British Empire in China." All this splendid help was received from India with lip gratitude. In return, Natal is resolved to keep Indian traders out of Zululand, if possible out of South Africa, vide the speech of the Prime Minister. Thousands of rebels, traitors, and people who declared they are only loyal because they are forced to, are to be citizens of the British Empire, and to be treated on equal footing. Turning attention to the Transvaal, it seems that the old order of things is going on. The rotten Boer legislation against them is well-known, and the present Administration have not yet set up anything better, under which the Indians can say they have been rescued from the enemy. Hundreds of white refugees have been allowed back to the Transvaal, but only two Indians have been allowed to return so far. There is reason to believe that it is the influence of the Central Registration Committee, which is at work endeavouring to place every obstacle in the way of refugee Indians being allowed back. According to report, nearly all European stores are opened in Johannesburg, though it is to be admitted that the military authorities are, perhaps, in full sympathy with the Indians.—I am, etc.,

A. R.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO INDIA.

To be obtained from
THE BRITISH COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 84-85, PALACE CHAMBERS, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Reports of the Proceedings at the Annual Sessions of the Indian National Congress, from the 3rd to the 14th Session. 2s. each, post free.

The Skeleton at the (Jubilee) Feast (Congress Green Book I.), by Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, Bart. (being a series of suggestions for the prevention of famine in India). Post free, 7d.

Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure: Evidence-in-Chief of the Indian Witnesses. (Congress Green Book II.) Post free, 1s. 10d.

The Proposed Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in India. Memorial to the Secretary of State. With two Appendices. (Congress Green Book III.) Post free, 1s. 2d.

Two Statements presented to the Indian Currency Committee (1898), by Mr. DADABHAI NAOROJI.

Speech by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P., in the House of Commons, August 14, 1894, on the Debate on the Indian Budget.

Ditto do. in the House of Commons, February 12, 1895, on the Debate on the Address.

Ditto do. on British Rule in India (1898).

Presidential Address by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P., delivered to the Indian National Congress at Lahore, 1893.

Presidential Address by Mr. A. M. Bose, M.A., delivered to the Indian National Congress at Madras, 1898.

Speeches of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., President of the Indian National Congress, 1894-5.

Valedictory Address of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., delivered at Bombay, January 17, 1895.

Speeches of Mr. D. E. Wacha delivered at the 9th, 11th and 14th Sessions of the Indian National Congress.

Is the Government of India Responsible to Anyone, and if so to Whom? Speech delivered at Croydon by Mr. W. C. BONNERJEE.

The Famine in India. Speeches delivered at a Public Reception to Mr. Vaughan Nash on his return from the Famine Districts, July, 1900.

Mr. A. O. Hume's Farewell to India. Speech delivered at Bombay, 1894.

India Reform Pamphlet IX. The State and Government of India under its Native Rulers. 3d.

The Indian National Congress: its Aims and Justification. By ROBERT KNIGHT.

Indian Politics. A Series of Papers on Important Indian Questions by Prominent Congressmen. Post free, 4s. 4d

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